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March 16, 2004 LB 916

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...why aren't those industries questioned as to whether...as to the elasticity of the pricing mechanisms? Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On with discussion of the Beutler amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I know that "Squire" Wehrbein is probably going to feel I'm the most anti-ag senator on the floor, but I support Senator Beutler's amendment. What he is saying in his amendment, as he has pointed out, to ensure that fees are adequate to meet at least 30 percent of the program costs, 30 percent, that means 70 percent is coming from someplace else. I would like to ask Senator Schrock a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, would you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, right now, what percentage of this program, as LB 916 is drafted, would be paid for through this fee structure?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Approximately 20 percent, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And where does the other 80 percent come from?

SENATOR SCHROCK: General Funds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So the public will be footing the majority of the bill. Even with Senator Beutler's amendment, the public would be footing 70 percent of the bill. Would you agree with that?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I would agree with that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and that's all I'll ask you. I just wanted everybody to be sure, who might look at our transcript, to know that on the numbers we're saying the same